

Hamilton County Commissioners' Meeting
P.O. Box 1167
Syracuse, KS 67878
Meeting Place - Commissioner Room
Hamilton County Courthouse
March 8, 2016
8:30 a.m.

Keith A. Puckett, Chairman
Randall C. Braddock, Commissioner
Michael W. Lewis, Commissioner
Nikki Schwerdfeger, Commissioner
Rob Gale, Attorney
Angie Moser, County Clerk

Commissioner Puckett called the Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with four Commissioners present.

AGENDA: Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRIOR MINUTES: Commissioner Braddock moved to approve the March 1, 2016 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Schwerdfeger seconded the Motion and it was approved with three "ayes" and one abstention.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Sherri Carroll discussed her concerns with the closing of the long term care unit (LTCU) and that she has called the State of Kansas who informed her that the LTCU has to give 30 to 60 days-notice to all of the residents, not just 30 days. Also, Ms. Carroll informed the Commissioners that she inquired about an apartment at Sunflower Square and she was told they are full. She is concerned about the number of hospital staff that currently resides in Sunflower Square and she requested that those hospital staff be given 30 days-notice to vacate in order to free up apartments for the elderly. Carol Roberts, Hospital Board Member informed that the Hospital will not have enough funds to keep the LTCU residents past 30 days. Commissioner Schwerdfeger informed the Commissioners cannot take action during the public comment section of the agenda, but that this issue will be discussed further by the Commission.

GREAT PLAINS DEVELOPMENT: Bob Wetmore, Co-Director and Leslie Lomas, Grant Administrator with Great Plains Development, Inc., presented a 2016 Services Update for Hamilton County and CDBG Funds available. Commissioner Braddock moved to accept the Membership Agreement with Great Plains Development, Inc. and to pay membership dues in the amount of \$750.00. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

HAMILTON CO HOSPITAL: Rob Nahmensen, Hamilton County Hospital CEO, Rob Rawlings, Hamilton County Hospital COO, and Mike Hand with Great Plains Health Alliance discussed the funding required to operate and the requested for additional no fund warrants. Mr. Nahmensen informed that the Hospital will have a shortfall of approximately \$1,700,000.00 for 2016 and the Hospital is requesting \$1,500,000.00 in no-fund warrants to operate through August plus an additional \$1,500,000.00 of no-fund warrants. Mr. Nahmensen also informed that the Hospital Administration staff has contacted surrounding providers to inquire that if the Hospital and Clinic ceased operations, if any of them would be able to open some sort of a facility to offer health care to Hamilton County. Commissioner Schwerdfeger voiced her concerns of why the Hospital Administrators waited until February 29th of this year to contact outside medical providing sources when the Commission asked them in October of 2015 to start the process of a "Plan B" and contact other outside providers. Commissioner Braddock voiced concerns of only being provided financial projections and not any actual financial statements and shown where the money is being spent and where the shortfall is coming from. Commissioner Braddock also voiced concerns of the income projections the Hospital Administration provided of how the new Memory Unit would generate \$400,000.00 of income so he feels it is hard to trust any income information the Hospital Administration presents. Mr. Hand informed that he feels the LTCU was the majority of the money drain of the Hospital's financial issues. Mr. Nahmensen informed that he contacted the State of Kansas regarding the required 30-60 day-notice and discussed the issue of not having the money or possible the staff to care for the LTCU residents past 30 days, but the State informed Mr. Nahmensen that is not their problem that in fact the 30-60 day notice is required. Commissioner

Lewis discussed forming a committee with the purpose of informing the public of what the options of outside medical providers and financial solutions. Commissioner Puckett asked the Hospital Administration if the Commission did vote to give the Hospital any no-fund warrants, do they have the funds to operate the next 60 days and does the Hospital Administration understand the impact suspending operations at LTCU will have on the Hospital. Mr. Nahmensen informed they did not have the funds to operate a full 60 days unless they accelerate laying off staff and closing more Departments. Mr. Hand discussed the amount of accounts payable and the struggle of getting any correct financial information from the Hospital's software CPSI. The public voiced concerns of the past Administration giving false financial statement information to the Commissioners and what a mess the financial records. The Public also asked whether the Administration staff feels if it is even possible to fix the computer system to generate the proper financial information and to properly file claims and increase revenues or if the CPSI staff is being used to their full extent to fix the computer system problem. Commissioner Lewis moved to develop a Hospital Steering Committee by March 11, 2016 made up of one Commissioner, one Hospital Board Member, one Hospital Administration Staff Member, and two Community Members (one being appointed by the Commissioners and one being appointed by the Hospital Board) and require the Committee to give the Board of Commissioners their recommendation of the future of the health care in Hamilton County by April 19, 2016. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. Commissioner Schwerdfeger moved to nominate Commissioner Simon as the Commissioner Member and appoint Steve Schell as the Commissioner's Community Member of the Hospital Steering Committee. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

SYAA: Vance Keller and Brian Bloyd, SYAA Board Members, informed the Commissioners that they are in the process of raising all of the funds to build a little league field by the other ball fields west of the Fair Grounds, with no funds being requested from the City or County. The approximate cost would be \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. They also discussed plans of creating a bike path for the youth to use to safely get to the proposed ball field and the shed purchased by SYAA to be used as concessions and storage. The SYAA invited the Fair Board to one of the SYAA meeting to discuss the proposed ball field. The Commissioners asked Mr. Keller and Mr. Bloyd to obtain an official signed agreement or official board minutes from all Boards involved (the Fair Board, the Saddle Club, and the School Board) and report back to the Commission. The Commissioners asked about the ball field being built in the new construction at the School. Mr. Keller informed that the School is still building a field, but not to the little league required specifications.

5-YEAR PLAN: The 5-year plan was reviewed. Epoxy sealer has been ordered for the Courthouse steps.

ROAD PROJECT LIST: The Road Project List was reviewed.

ROAD PETITION: The County Clerk received a Road Petition from Darrin Dewitt for the location of a road beginning at the corner of Road 31 & Road U south to Road 25 (more commonly known as Mayline Road). No action will be taken until discussing the Road Petition further with the Petitioner.

B & H PAVING, INC. PROPOSAL: B & H Paving, Inc. submitted a proposal for chip and sealing using 3/4" aggregate for an estimated 7.5 miles of road at \$15,912.70 with an approximate total of \$119,345.25. Commissioner Braddock moved to accept the proposal as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

CELL PHONE FOR ROAD DEPARTMENT: Ed Baker, Road Department Employee, is having trouble communicating on his personal Verizon cell phone when making County related phone calls in parts of the County. After discussion, Commissioner Braddock moved to purchase a non-contract phone for Mr. Baker. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

WARRANTS: After review and discussion, Commissioner Braddock moved to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$148,314.92. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Lewis gave an update on State regulations regarding adult services such as what is offered by SDSI, Inc. Commissioner Braddock informed that he submitted written testimony regarding the tax lid bills before the House and Senate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

As there was no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Lewis moved for adjournment. Commissioner Braddock seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

County Clerk

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner